

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement in the May 22, 2008 Office Action that claims 1-17 and 19-21 are allowed. The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 22-24 over various references. Without admitting the merits of those rejections, Applicants have cancelled claims 18 and 22-24 without prejudice in order to expedite the prosecution of this case. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 18 and 22-24 in further continuation case(s) if deemed appropriate.

In conclusion, and after entry of this amendment, all pending claims are allowable according to the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner mail a Notice to that effect. Any questions about this amendment and response should be directed to the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4713.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 9, 2008

By: 

Andrew D. Stover
Registration No. 38,629
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200